



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

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June 22, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM:  Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO
EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO
PROVIDE COORDINATED DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS DURING A
BIOTERRORISM OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

This is to advise you that I have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to work cooperatively and collaboratively with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to dispense medication to MWD employees and their immediate families, in order to permit MWD to retain its operational capability in the event of a bioterrorism/public health emergency in Los Angeles County.

In order to have a collaborative and efficient mechanism for a coordinated emergency response, DPH is entering into informal agreements with critical infrastructure partners and private sector companies in Los Angeles County. DPH recognizes that MWD is both a major employer and indispensable component of Los Angeles County's critical infrastructure. The ability of MWD to continue operations during a public health emergency is a vital concern to both DPH and the residents of the Los Angeles County.

This MOU has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel, as to form.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

JEF:sr
BS#01115

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors